

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 /037 W

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R 230823Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9931

USDA WASHDC

INFO FHJA/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 643

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BU

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

USDA FOR FAS

REF: STATE 166994

1. BULGARIA APPARENTLY ESCAPED SERIOUS RAIN AND FLOOD DAMAGE WHICH DEVASTATED ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBORS. GOB EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR ROMANIAN FLOOD SITUATION BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY PROBLEMS AT HOME. PRESS ALSO HAS NOT REPORTED FLOOD DAMAGE. OBSERVATION POSSIBLE BY EMBASSY STAFF CONFIRMS THIS EVALUATION.

2. HEAVY RAINS DID DELAY HARVEST AND PROBABLY RESULTED IN SOME LOSSES AND THERE WERE REPORTS OF HAIL DAMAGE. APPARENTLY NEITHER OF THESE WERE WIDESPREAD.

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3. WITH RECENT GOOD WEATHER GRAIN HARVEST IS NEARING COMPLETION. PRESS HAS BEEN CARRYING TABLES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF AREA HARVESTED BY OKRUG, BUT HAS RECENTLY DROPPED BARLEY LISTING AS HARVESTING APPARENTLY VIRTUALLY COMPLETE. WHEAT HARVESTING IN SEVERAL OKRUGS

IS 100 PERCENT AND IN MOST OTHERS IS IN 80 OR 90 PERCENTILES. BALING AND GATHERING OF STRAW IS SHOWN AS RANGING BETWEEN 25 AND 75 PERCENT COMPLETED.

4. NO ESTIMATES ON VOLUME OF GRAIN HARVEST AVAILABLE. PRESS CARRIES NO SUCH INFORMATION AND EMBASSY FROM EXPERIENCE KNOWS NO SUCH INFORMATION FORTHCOMING FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. SAFE TO ASSUME HARVEST GREAT DEAL BETTER THAN 1974 WHEN DROUGHT CAUSED DAMAGE, BUT EMBASSY NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE DETAILED COMPARISONS.

5. OTHER CROPS APPEAR TO BE QUITE GOOD ALSO, ALTHOUGH CORN WHICH GOT OFF TO POOR START MAY BE DISAPPOINTING. FODDER PROBLEM WHICH DREW ATTENTION AT HIGHEST LEVELS LAST YEAR SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ALLEVIATED THIS YEAR. SOIL MOISTURE FOR PLANTING OF SECOND CROPS SHOULD BE FAVORABLE, AND WATER SUPPLIES FOR IRRIGATION ARE VERY GOOD AS RESULT OF ABUNDANT RAINS.

6. IMPRESSION IS THAT ALL-IN-ALL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK THIS YEAR IS OPTIMISTIC, BUT UNFORTUNATELY MEANINGFUL STATISTICS TO BACK UP IMPRESSION ARE LACKING.
HERZ

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